

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - a filtering processor that includes a filter and switches between a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path;
 - 5 a data compressor that compresses image data output from the filtering processor;
 - an image data storage that stores the image data compressed;
 - and
 - a data expander that expands the image data stored, wherein
 - 10 the pre-filtering path includes a first path sending a raw image data to the data compressor via the filter and a second path passing the image data expanded, and
 - the post-filtering path includes a third path passing the raw image data to the data compressor and a fourth path sending the image
 - 15 data expanded to the filter.
2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data compressor irreversibly compresses the image data output from the filtering processor.
- 20 3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the filtering processor switches between the pre-filtering path and the post-filtering path based on information of the image data.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering processor switches to the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.
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5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering processor switches to the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.
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6. A method for filtering image data comprising:
choosing between a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path;
filtering raw image data when the pre-filtering path is chose;
compressing the image data filtered when the pre-filtering path
15 is chose, and compressing the raw image data when the post-filtering path is chose;
storing the image data compressed;
expanding the image data stored; and
filtering the image data expanded when the post-filtering path is
20 chose.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the compressing includes irreversibly compressing any one of the image data filtered and the raw image data.
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8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the choosing includes choosing between the pre-filtering path and the post-filtering path based on information of the image data.
- 5 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the choosing includes choosing the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.
- 10 10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the choosing includes choosing the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.